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## **High-Speed Rail Authority Board Sets Aggressive Goal for the Participation of Disadvantaged Businesses** **Authority Announces Appointment of Small Business Advocate**

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – The California High-Speed Rail Authority Board has voted to set an aggressive goal to identify 10 percent of federal rail contracts and project construction projects for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) participation.

The Board's decision is in accordance with agreements between the Federal Railroad Administration and the Authority which requires the authority to develop and implement a Small and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program (S/DBE) to ensure that small businesses, including DBEs, have an opportunity to bid on the rail contracts and participate in construction of the project.

The Authority's Board of Directors previously approved the S/DBE Program with an amendment to include a 3 percent Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) goal within the overall 30 percent small business goal.

"This action by the Board ensures that small, disadvantaged and disabled veterans' businesses will be the backbone of the high-speed rail project. In doing so, we can be sure that the nation's largest infrastructure project will benefit from the creativity, diversity and commitment of the State's small business community," said Jeff Morales, Chief Executive Officer of the High-Speed Rail Authority.

Also announced was the appointment of Robert Padilla as the Authority's Small Business Advocate. Most recently Padilla was the DBE Program Manager for the California Department of Transportation and prior to that he served as Assistant Deputy Director for the Governor's Office of Economic Development.

"The Authority is committed to a robust and effective outreach to increase participation by California's small businesses in the high-speed rail project. The Small Business Advocate will be a key to our success in achieving this goal," said Morales. The advocate's office will be located in Fresno.

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